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INDEX

(No. 1, April, pp. 1-36; No. 2, July, pp. 37-84; No. 3, October, pp. 85-140; No. 4, January, pp. 141-188.)

NOTES OF THE QUARTER

Subject	Page	Subject	Page
<i>Aims and Objects</i>	7, 87, 89, 147	Lewis, Professor A. J.	41, 148
Alpine Race	9	<i>Man's Most Dangerous Myth</i>	8, 88-9
Anthropology	8	Mass-Observation	145
Beveridge Report	11	Maternal Mortality	40
Bibby, Mr. C.	8	Mediterranean Race	9
Birth-rate	3, 143-8	Mental Deficiency	88
Blacker, Dr. C. P.	9-10, 41, 91, 148	<i>Milbank Memorial Fund Quarterly</i>	4-5
Bonger, W. A.	8	Minister of Health	39-41
Brock Report	90	Montagu, Dr. M. F. Ashley	88
Cadbury, Mr. L. J.	5-8, 148	National Health	39-41
Carr-Saunders, Sir A. M.	11, 147, 148	Negroes	8-9
Census	144	<i>News Chronicle</i>	147
<i>Chances of Morbid Inheritance</i>	148	Nordics	9
Contraception	10	Nuffield Foundation	148
Crime	9	<i>Origin of Species</i>	9
Dalton, Mr.	147	P E P	146
Darwin, Charles	9	<i>Planning</i>	146
Diphtheria	40-1	Population	3-8, 11, 41-7, 143-8
Douglas, Dr. J.	148	<i>Population of Great Britain</i>	146
Egypt	5	Population Investigation Committee	4, 11, 148
<i>Eugenics Society</i> 4, 9-10, 40-1, 87-91, 147, 148		Population (Statistics) Act	3, 11, 144
Family Allowances	7	Psychology	8
Fertility	4, 10, 143	Quetelet, A.	3
Finland	6	Race	8-9
France	6	Registrar General	11, 42
Galton, Sir Francis	87-8	Roberts, Dr. J. A. Fraser	41
Galton Lecture	9-11, 91, 148	Roumania	6
Galton Medal	148	Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynæ- cologists	148
Genetics	8	Royal Commission on Population	3-6, 40-1, 87-8, 143-4, 146, 148
Germany	6, 8	Scandinavia	6
Glass, Dr. D. V.	11, 148	Sex Education	8
Great Britain	6	Social Insurance	3
<i>Hereditary Genius</i>	87	Sociology	8
Heredity	89	Sterilization	88, 90
Horder, Lord	9	Tuberculosis	40
Income Tax	7, 147	University of London	4
Infectious Disease	40	U.S.A.	8-9
India	5	U.S.S.R.	6
<i>Inquiries into Human Faculties</i>	87	Veneral Disease	40
Intelligence	89	Vital Statistics	3, 40
Japan	4-5	War	6, 39-41
Jews	9	Zinnsser, H.	6
King, Gregory	144-5		
Kuczynski, Dr. R. R.	3-4, 5		

ARTICLES

Author	Title	Page
Bibby, Cyril	Sex Education : Aims, Possibilities and Plans	157
Binney, Cecil	Eugenic Aspects of the English Criminal Law	105
Burt, Cyril	The Relation between Eye-Colour and Defective Colour Vision	149

Author	Title	Page
Glass, D. V.	Reproduction Rates of France and Spain : A Survey of Recent Literature	61
—	Current Notes on Population Trends in the British Empire	65
—	Current Notes on Demography	116
—	Gregory King and the Population of England and Wales at the End of the Seventeenth Century	170
Kuczynski, R. R.	Demography—Science and Administration	12
Pearse, Innes H.	The Peckham Experiment	48
Rees, W. Linford	Physical and Psychological Aspects of Constitution	23
Shaul, J. R. H.	Population Trends in Southern Rhodesia, 1941-1981	56
—	Obituary	187
—	Royal Commission on Population : Memorandum submitted by the <i>Eugenics Society</i>	92

NOTES AND MEMORANDA

Subject	Author	Page
Artificial Insemination	—	29
British Association	U. G. D.	185
British Social Hygiene Council	—	184
Central Council of Health Education	U. G. D.	125
Child Adoption	U. G. D.	125
Corrigendum	—	72
Council of Seven Beliefs	—	71
Education and the Birth Rate	—	28
Eleanor Rathbone	—	186
Elections to the <i>Society</i>	—	29, 72, 126, 186
Family Planning Association	—	28
For Childless Wives	—	28
Galton Anniversary	—	184
Galton Chair of Eugenics	—	28
Institute for the Scientific Treatment of Delinquency	—	185
Institute of Sociology	U. G. D.	125
Married Women's Association	U. G. D.	185
Members' Meetings	—	28, 124, 184
National Conference on Maternity and Child Welfare	U. G. D.	125
National Council of Women	—	124
Nominations to the Council	C. P. Blacker	184
Obituary	—	72
Population Facts and Policies	—	71
Recent Additions to the Library	—	29, 71, 124, 184
Social Biology	—	71
This Issue	—	186

BOOKS REVIEWED

Author	Title of Book	Reviewer	Page
Abrams, Mark	<i>The Population of Great Britain</i>	M. N.	146
Barker, F. A.	<i>The Modern Prison System of India</i>	W. Norwood East	77
Bibby, Cyril	<i>Sex Education</i>	M. N.	8
Bonger, W. A.	<i>Race and Crime</i>	M. N.	9
Elsas, M. J.	<i>Housing Before the War and After</i>	H. F. C.	134
Freed, Lan	<i>Morality and Happiness</i>	D. R.-R.	32
Glover, Edward	<i>The Psycho-Pathology of Prostitution</i>	W. H.	134
Hubback, E.	<i>Population Facts and Policies</i>	—	71
James, L.	<i>A Forgotten Genius : Sewell of St. Columba's and Radley</i>	B. S. Bramwell	134

Author	Title of Book					Reviewer	Page
Kluckhohn, Clyde	...	<i>Navaho Witchcraft</i>	...	...	...	A. I. Richards	130
Lafitte, François	...	<i>Britain's Way to Social Security</i>	...	...	...	T. H. Marshall	128
Layard, John	...	<i>The Lady of the Hare</i>	...	...	...	Denis Hill	131
McCleary, G. F.	...	<i>Race Suicide?</i>	...	...	...	Sally Chilver	128
Milbank Memorial Fund	...	<i>Demographic Studies of Selected Areas of Rapid Growth</i>	...	...	...	M. N.	4
Montagu, M. F. A.	...	<i>Man's Most Dangerous Myth: The Fallacy of Race</i>	...	...	...	M. N.	8, 88
Moran, Lord	...	<i>The Anatomy of Courage</i>	...	...	...	Eliot Slater	126
Odum, Howard W.	...	<i>Race and Rumors of Race</i>	...	...	...	M. N.	8
Movius, H. L.	...	<i>Early Man and Pleistocene Stratigraphy in Southern and Eastern Asia</i>	...	...	...	J. C. Trevor	188
Paterson, Dorothy	...	<i>The Family Woman and the Feminist</i>	...	...	...	U. G. D.	135
P E P	...	<i>Planning Broadsheets "Vital Statistics" and "Retreat from Parenthood"</i>	...	...	...	M. N.	146
Powdermaker, F., and Grimes, L. I.	...	<i>The Intelligent Parents' Manual</i>	...	...	...	Hilda Lewis	74
Radzinowicz, L., and Turner, J. W. C. (Eds.)	...	<i>Mental Abnormality and Crime</i>	...	...	...	Eliot Slater	74
—	...	<i>After Conduct of Discharged Offenders</i>	...	...	...	W. Norwood East	133
Schrader, F.	...	<i>Mitosis</i>	...	...	...	A. C. Fabergé	30
Webster, Hutton	...	<i>Taboo: A Sociological Study</i>	...	...	...	A. I. Richards	135

PERIODICALS

Periodical	Topics					Reviewer	Page
Agenda	Eva M. Hubback	79
Annals of Eugenics	...	Various	...	...	...	D. J. Finney	33
Archiv der Julius Klaus-Stiftung	F. F. Tietze	79
Character and Personality	P. E. V.	136
Human Biology	S. A. B.	33
" "	" "	136
Human Fertility	M. C. N. Jackson	80
Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology	W. Norwood East	82
" "	" "	136
Social Forces	D. R.-R.	34
" "	" "	83

CORRESPONDENCE

Subject	Writer					Page
An Objective View?	...	S. H. Halford	...	...	...	138
Early or Late Parenthood?	...	A. Piney	...	...	...	36
Eugenics and Family Size	...	C. O. Carter	...	...	...	35
"Lebensraum"	...	B. Dunlop	...	...	...	35
" "	...	C. Wicksteed Armstrong	...	...	...	123
"Order of Merit"	...	B. S. Bramwell	...	...	...	35
Population Problem in a Crown Colony	...	H. L. Gordon	...	...	...	139
War and the Birth Rate	...	L. J. Cadbury	...	...	...	83

SUBJECT INDEX

Subject	Page	Subject	Page
Abnormalities	79-80	Delinquency (<i>See</i> Crime)	
Abortion	52, 108-11	Denmark	83
Adoption	125	Diet (<i>See</i> Nutrition)	
<i>Aims and Objects</i>	7, 87, 89, 147	Diphtheria	40-1
Alcoholism	124	Disease	23
Alpine race	9	Douglas, Dr. J.	148
Anæmia	33	Down, Dr. R. Langdon	73
Anthropology	8, 130-1, 135, 188	<i>Economist</i>	21
Anthropometry	24-5, 76	Education	101, 125, 138-9, 157-70
Aristotle	23	Egypt	5
Artificial Insemination	29, 108	Eire	83
Australia	16, 65-7, 83	Eley, Mr. G.	73
Bateson, William	72	Endocrines	79
Beveridge Report	11, 98	Environment	98-9
Bibby, Mr. C.	8	Esthonia	16
Bigamy	111-12	<i>Eugenics in Prospect and Retrospect</i>	91
Bills of Mortality	12	<i>Eugenics Society</i> 4, 9-10, 71-2, 73, 87-91, 105, 108, 124, 147, 148, 187	
Binet-Simon Tests (<i>See</i> Intelligence Tests)		Evolution	92
Biology	136	Eyes	149-56
Birth Control (<i>See</i> Contraception)		Family Allowances 7, 28, 79, 100, 119-23, 129	
Birth Rate 3, 12-22, 28, 40, 56-60, 61-4, 65-70, 79, 83-4, 116-23, 143-4		Family Planning Association	28
Blacker, Dr. C. P. 9-10, 72, 91, 101, 103, 148		Family Size	35
Blood Groups	33, 136	Farr, Dr.	13
Bonger, W. A.	8	Feeble-mindedness (<i>See</i> Mental Deficiency)	
Bosanquet, Mrs. C.	73	Feminism	135
Brachydactily	79	Fertility 4, 10, 56-60, 61-4, 65-70, 80-2, 92, 95, 143	
Bramwell, Mr. B. S.	72	Finland	6
British Association	72, 185	Fisher, Professor R. A.	95
British Empire	56-60, 65-70	France	6, 16, 61-4, 83, 116-23
British Social Hygiene Council 71, 157, 184		Galen	23
Brock Report	90, 99	Galton Chair of Eugenics	28
Cadbury, Mr. L. J.	5-8, 73, 148	Galton, Sir Francis	87, 92
Canada	28, 33	Galton Lecture	9-11, 91, 184
Carr-Saunders, Sir A. M. 11, 73, 147, 148, 184		Galton Medal	148, 184
Census	14-17, 67-70, 144	Gates, Professor Ruggles	73
Central Council for Health Education	157	Genetical Society	72
Chance, Mr. C. F.	73	Genetics	8, 33, 79, 103-4, 136, 152
<i>Chances of Morbid Inheritance</i>	148, 187	Germany	6, 10, 16, 23, 94
Childbirth	185	Glass, Dr. D. V.	11, 73, 148
Child Guidance	74	Grant Duff, Hon. Mrs.	73
Child Welfare	34	Graunt, J.	12
China	83	Great Britain	6, 83
Churchill, Dr. Stella	73	Grundy, Dr. F.	73
Colour Blindness	33, 149-56	Gun, Mr. W. T. J.	73
Contraception	10, 80-2, 99, 108, 128	Hæmophilia	95
Contraceptive Methods	80-2	Hares	131-2
Courage	126-7	Hawaii	83
Courtship	54-5	<i>Hereditary Genius</i>	87
Crime	9, 74-8, 82, 102, 105-16, 133, 136-7	Heredity	79, 89
Criminal Law	105-16	Hippocrates	23
<i>Current Trend of Population in Great Britain</i> 20		Holland	16, 83, 128
Czechoslovakia	16, 83	Holland, Mr. Eardley	73
Dalton, Mr.	147	Homosexuality	112-13
Darwin, Charles	9, 92	Horder, Lord	9
Darwin, Sir Charles	73	Housing	101, 124, 134
Death-rate	18		

Subject	Page	Subject	Page
Hubback, Mrs. E.	71, 73	Nordics	9
Hungary	16	Norway	16
Huxley, Dr. J. S.	55, 73	Nuffield Foundation	148
		Nutrition	53
Illegitimacy	108	Obituary	72, 186, 187
Imperial Institute of Demographic Studies	40, 104	Order of Merit	35
Incest	110, 113-14	<i>Origin of Species</i>	9
Income Tax	7, 120, 147	Osborn, Dr. F.	98
India	5, 21-2, 77-8		
Infanticide	109	Parental Instincts	99-100
Infectious Disease	40	Parenthood	36, 74
<i>Inquiries into Human Faculty</i>	87	Paterson, Dr. A. S.	28, 95
Insanity	74-7, 136	Peckham Experiment	48-55
Institute of Family Relations	169	Pedigrees	103-4
Institute for the Scientific Treatment of		Penology	77-8, 133
Delinquency	28, 185	Penrose, Dr. L. S.	28
Intelligence	89	P E P	146
Intelligence Tests	35	Petty, William	13
Italy	16, 23	Physique	23-7, 38
		Pilkington, Captain R.	73
Japan	4-5, 83	<i>Planning</i>	146
Jews	9, 33-4	Polygamy	33
Jones, Dr. D. Caradog	72	Population 3-8, 11, 12-22, 41-7, 56-60, 61-4, 65-70,	
<i>Journal of Education</i>	28	71, 116-23, 128, 139-40, 143-8, 170-83	
<i>Journal of the Royal Statistical Society</i>	14	Population Investigation Committee 4, 11, 148	
Juvenile Delinquency	124	Population (Statistics) Act ... 3, 11, 17, 18, 20	
		Pregnancy	52-4, 120
Kenya	139-40	Pre-marital Health Examination	101
Keynes, Lord	73	Prostitution	115, 134
King, Gregory	144-5	Psychology	8, 74-7, 131-2, 134, 136, 187
Kretschmer, E.	24		
Kuczynski, Dr. R. R.	3-4, 5, 56	Quetelet, A.	3
Lesbianism	113	Race Crossing	67-70, 115
Lewis, Professor A. J.	41, 148	Rape	110
Logan, Mr. R. Y.	73	Rathbone, Miss E.	186
London	177	Registrar General	11, 13, 42
		Rhesus factor	81-2
<i>Man's Most Dangerous Myth</i>	8, 88-9	Rhodesia	16, 56-60
Maoris	67-70	Roberts, Dr. J. A. Fraser	41, 72
Marriage	15-16, 19	Roumania	6
Mass-Observation	145	Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynæ-	
Maternal Mortality	40	cologists	148
Maternity and Child Welfare	125-6	Royal College of Physicians	99
Maternity Services	101	Royal Commission on Population 3-6, 20-1, 40-1,	
Mediterranean race	9	73, 87-91, 92-104, 143-4, 146, 148	
Mendelism	96, 103	Russia (See U.S.S.R.)	
Mental Deficiency	88, 102-3, 111, 115, 124		
Migration	60, 105-7	Saunders, Miss E. R.	72
Minister of Health	39-41	Scandinavia	6
Montagu, Dr. Ashley	88	Schizophrenia	26, 132
Montagu-Pollock, Mrs. P.	73	Sewell, William	134
Morality	32	Sex Education	8, 74, 157-70
Motherhood	135	Sexual Offences	111-5
		Siam	33
National Council of Women	124	Slater, Dr. Eliot	73
National Health	39-41	Social Insurance	3
Negroes	8-9, 137	Social Problem Group	101-3
Neurosis	26	Social Security	60, 128-9
Newfield, Dr. M.	73	Sociology	8, 48-55, 83, 125
<i>News Chronicle</i>	147	South Africa	16
New Zealand	16, 67-70		

Subject	Page	Subject	Page
Spain	16, 61-4	University of London	4, 12, 28
Spearman, Professor C. E.	187	U.S.A. 8-9, 16, 21, 83, 94, 133, 136-7	
Sterilization	88, 90, 99, 107, 109	U.S.S.R.	6, 100
Strutt, Hon. John	73		
Sweden	13, 83	Venereal Disease	40, 108, 124
Switzerland	83	Vital Statistics	3, 40, 56-60, 61-4
Taboo	135		
Teeth	136	War	6, 35, 39-41, 83-4, 126-7
Temperament	23-6	Whipping	137
Titmuss, Mr. R. M.	72	Williamson, Dr. Scott	48
Thomson, Professor G.	184	Witchcraft	130-1
Town and Country Planning Association	184	Wood Report	102-3
Trevor, Mr. J. C.	73		
Tsetse fly	33	Zinnsser, H.	6
Tuberculosis	34, 40		

THE EUGENICS REVIEW

VOL. XXXVII, No. 1

APRIL 1945

CONTENTS

	PAGE
Notes of the Quarter - - - - -	3
Demography—Science and Administration - - - - - R. R. KUCZYNSKI	12
Physical and Psychological Aspects of Constitution - - - - - W. LINFORD REES, M.D., B.Sc., M.R.C.P., D.P.M.	23
Notes and Memoranda - - - - -	28
Reviews of Books	
CYTOLOGY - - - - -	30
Other Notice - - - - -	32
Periodicals - - - - -	33
Correspondence - - - - -	35

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PERIODICALS

Annals of Eugenics

October 1944, Vol. 12, Part 3.—*The families of the kings of Siam of the house of Chakri.*—By Malcolm Smith.—After remarking that "Detailed information concerning the families of men who have been great polygamists is very rare," the writer gives interesting data on the children of the first five kings of the present Royal House of Siam, who reigned between 1737 and 1910. A remarkable feature, bearing in mind the primitive medical facilities, is the longevity of these children. The 35 wives of King Lot La (who died in 1824), for example, bore him 73 children, of whom 19 lived to be over 60 and three to be over 80.

Genetic studies on ectopia lentis. II. Anthropometric and linkage data.—By C. W. Cotterman and Harold F. Falls.—Dominant ectopia lentis has been traced in a kindred of which 157 members have now been examined. Data have been obtained from the same individuals on the ABO, MN, and Rh agglutinogens, salivary secretion of ABO antigens, phenyl-thiocarbamide tasting, eye colour, colour-blindness, and certain anthropometric measurements. The purpose of this paper is only to present the data, together with details of the methods of testing and classification, but the material could be well employed in a linkage study.

Allowance for double reduction in the calculation of genotype frequencies with polysomic inheritance.—By R. A. Fisher.—In an earlier paper the estimation of different genotypes in a tristylous species, on the hypothesis of disomic, tetrasomic, or hexasomic inheritance of the "mid" style length gene, was discussed. Since then it has been demonstrated that for *Lythrum salicaria* the inheritance is almost certainly tetrasomic. The algebraic equations have now been extended to allow for the regular occurrence of double reduction.

The estimation of map distances from recombination values.—By D. D. Kosambi.—This paper contains an ingenious attempt to find a function of recombination values between loci of the same chromosome that shall be simply additive, and thus to express, by means of a general equation, the recombination fraction for two loci, in terms of the recombination between each locus and a third. Haldane's earlier work on these lines is discussed and an improved formula developed, but rather surprisingly no reference is made to Stevens' paper on interference; indeed, Kosambi's equation requires that interference shall be equal in amount at all parts of the chromosome, and thus is scarcely in accordance with known results. The few sets of data that Kosambi has examined are unfortunately inconclusive and a much more complete survey of existing records is needed before any verdict can be passed.

The analysis of a tsetse-fly population, II.—By

C. H. N. Jackson.—Jackson's highly original methods of analysing the population changes and migrations of tsetse-flies deserve the attention of all who are seriously concerned with insect population studies, and should interest a much wider circle of readers.

The inheritance of allelomorphs of Rh gene in fifty-six families.—By R. R. Race, G. L. Taylor, Elizabeth W. Ikin, and Aileen M. Prior.—One of the most important contributions which the study of human genetics has yet made to medical practice is the discovery of the "rhesus" blood types and their relationship to the occurrence of erythroblastosis foetalis. Primarily as a result of the work of Landsteiner and Wiener in America and the Galton Laboratory Serum Unit in this country, considerable advances have been made in the past three or four years in the knowledge of the underlying genetic mechanism. The present contribution from the Galton Laboratory contains evidence from family material in support of the theory that at least seven allelomorphic genes are involved. By means of agglutination tests with four different antisera the more common genotypes can be distinguished fairly satisfactorily, since the frequencies of many others are so small as to be almost negligible.

D. J. FINNEY.

Human Biology

May 1944, Vol. 16, No. 2.—*The habitus of patients with sickle cell anemia.*—By Travis Winsor and George E. Burch.—The body type in fifteen patients with sickle cell anaemia is described in detail, and is considered to be the result of the disease itself and not dependent on genetic factors. In the adult there are emaciation, long legs and short trunk, increased dorsal kyphosis, lumbar lordosis, hoop chest and spider fingers; in the child there are deep narrow chest, enlarged abdomen and long thin limbs. These changes are related to alterations in the functioning of internal organs. Four patients with sicklemia, i.e. the sickling phenomenon but no anaemia, showed no significant deviations from the normal.

The stature of Toronto children half a century ago and to-day.—By Howard V. Meredith and E. Matilda Meredith.—At 6 years elementary school children in Toronto in 1892 averaged 5.0 cm. shorter than their counterparts in 1939. At 9 years the difference is approximately 7.5 cm. The greatest differences are found at 12 or 13 for girls and 13 or 14 for boys. For girls the difference was 9.0 cm., for boys slightly less. In 1923, average stature was intermediate between that of 1892 and that of 1939.

September 1944, Vol. 16, No. 3.—*A comparison of the frequencies of certain genetic traits among Gentile and Jewish students.*—By David C. Rife and

Murray D. Schonfeld.—241 Gentile students of N.W. European origin were compared with 84 Jewish students mainly of Russian origin. The Jews showed a lower frequency of blood group O, a higher frequency of Antigen M, and a lower of Antigen N. There were no significant differences in the occurrence of the Rh agglutinin, or in the proportions of tasters of phenyl-thio-carbamide. Patterns occurred on palms, and whorls on fingertips, more often among the Jews. Left-handedness occurred about twice as frequently among Jews as among Gentiles.

Prevalence of pulmonary tuberculosis among selectees.—By Captain Bernard D. Karpinos.—A random sample of 21,131 whites and 2,566 coloured selectees was taken from among the selectees examined at the Joint Army and Navy induction stations in February 1943. The selectees are classified in three categories with respect to pulmonary tuberculosis: negative, with no evidence of this disease; arrested-acceptable, with inactive tuberculosis lesions; and positive, with active pulmonary tuberculosis, or with arrested tuberculosis which nevertheless disqualified for service. 95.5 per cent whites between 18 and 30 were found negative, 3.5 arrested-acceptable, 1 per cent positive. The proportions did not alter with age within this age group, but above the 30 the frequency of positive cases increased, and of arrested-acceptable above 35. Coloured selectees showed a lower frequency of arrested-acceptable cases than white selectees, but this was probably due to variations in the criteria used in different Commands. Correction for this type of effect indicated no significant variation between the two groups.

S. A. B.

Social Forces

March 1944, Vol. 22, No. 3.—*The Culture of Infants.*

—By Howard H. Harlan.—The culture pattern of children in the first two years of life tends to be simple because the child's ability to learn is limited, and because behaviour which must be explained verbally cannot be transmitted to the child. For these reasons the subject has been considerably explored and the writer gives lists of cultural responses of infants in the various age groups. It is found that the responses are to a great extent "management of tension" (e.g. control of sphincters). Also the culture pattern is not transmitted by one infant to another, but by adults and older children.

The Child: Welfare Objective and Scientific Concept.—By James H. Bossard.—Until recently

the child has been regarded rather as a welfare-objective than a subject for scientific research. This is a natural emphasis, but as a result the integration of the child in the social framework has not been studied. Study of the child illuminates both cultural continuity and cultural discontinuity: the former because the restricted life of the family perpetuates custom, and the latter because later education teaches (to a great extent) how to change and improve social status. Also there has been a tendency to study the delinquent child rather than the normal, and to ignore completely children as a distinctive age-group. Dr. Bossard concludes by suggesting that a more intensive study of the child would lead to great advances in sociology.

D. R.-R.